

# MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

PG: #62-9

P.G. 31

1700314434

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

### 1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

"First Telegraph" Marker

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Rte. 1, along RR tracks

CITY, TOWN

Muirkirk (Beltsville) — VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Prince George's

### 3 CLASSIFICATION

#### CATEGORY

- ☐ DISTRICT  
☐ BUILDING(S)  
☒ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

#### OWNERSHIP

- ☒ PUBLIC  
☐ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH

#### PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- ☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

#### STATUS

- ☐ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS  
☒ ACCESSIBLE  
☐ YES RESTRICTED  
☐ YES UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO

#### PRESENT USE

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE   | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL    | <input type="checkbox"/> PARK              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL   | <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT    | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL    | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER  |

### 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

(roadside mrkr.)

NAME

State Roads Commission (right-of-way) Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
 REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Prince George's County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Upper Marlboro

STATE

Maryland

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
 SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION****CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT  
☐ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☐ UNALTERED  
☐ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This is a metal sign placed beside the road, that gives the background of the first successful telegraph message sent along this route in 1844.

# SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Samuel F.B. Morse erected a telegraph line along the B & O RR right-of-way in 1844. He sent his famous "What hath God wrought" message over these wires in that same year. He was aided in his endeavors by Ezra Cornell, founder of Cornell University, and Charles B. Calvert of "Riversdale".

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

- 1) ASPECTS OF THE HISTORY OF MD. & P.G. CO., (1967), pp. 90-93,  
Prince George's Co. Board of Education.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Michael F. Dwyer, Senior Park Historian

ORGANIZATION

M-NCPPC

DATE

1/30/73

STREET & NUMBER

8787 Georgia Ave.

TELEPHONE

589-1480

CITY OR TOWN

Silver Spring

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438